

BANKING, RAILWAY, & SHIPPING STATISTICS, IRELAND.

[JUNE, 1897.]

STATISTICS OF DEPOSITS AND CASH BALANCES IN JOINT STOCK BANKS; DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS AND TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS; AMOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT FUNDS, INDIA STOCKS, AND GUARANTEED LAND STOCK; AND BANK NOTE CIRCULATION IN IRELAND, JUNE, 1897; WEEKLY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS OF IRISH RAILWAYS FOR THE FIRST TWENTY-SIX WEEKS OF THE YEARS 1896-97; AND THE AGGREGATE RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF EACH OF THE YEARS 1888-97; ALSO TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN THE PORTS OF IRELAND DURING THE YEARS 1886-96.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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DUBLIN CASTLE,

3rd August, 1897.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ulto, forwarding, for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Banking, Railway, and Shipping Statistics, Ireland (June, 1897).

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

D. HARREL

The Registrar-General,

Charlemont House,

Rutland-square.

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BANKING, RAILWAY, AND SHIPPING
STATISTICS, IRELAND
(JUNE, 1897).

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE HENRY, EARL CADOGAN, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Tables and remarks relative to Banking and to the amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock upon which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, together with information concerning the weekly traffic receipts of the Irish Railways during the half year ended 30th June, 1897; and an abstract of the principal railway statistics of Ireland for the first half of each of the ten years 1888-97; also Tables with reference to the tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared at each of the Irish Ports. The Tables on these subjects are in continuation of those previously issued by this Department.

The information comprised in the first series of Tables consists of the total of the deposits and cash balances in the Joint Stock Banks of Ireland on the 30th of June, 1897, and on the corresponding date in each preceding year since the year 1877 inclusive, compiled from confidential returns furnished by the authorities of the various banks

with their usual courtesy ; the estimated balance of deposits remaining in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks on the 30th of June of each year since the year 1877 inclusive, derived from official sources ; together with the total amount on 30th June (in each year since 1877) of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock,* on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, with the amount of each description of Stock on 30th June, 1897, kindly supplied by the Governor of the Bank ; and the average bank note circulation of the six banks of issue in Ireland in the month of June since 1887, compiled from the *Dublin Gazette*. Tables are also inserted affording half-yearly comparisons for the ten years 1887-96 and the first half of this year under each of the heads referred to above.

The Tables comprising the returns of the weekly traffic receipts of the Irish Railways have been compiled from data for which I am indebted to the authorities of the various Railway Companies.

Returns with reference to the tonnage of Ships entered and cleared at Irish Ports have been kindly furnished by the Board of Customs, and were specially prepared for the purposes of this Report by the Statistical Department of that Board.

1. *Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks.*

The deposits and cash balances in Joint Stock Banks in the middle of the year which, comparing June with June, had gradually increased from £29,223,000 in June, 1886, to £38,758,000 in the middle of 1896, show, on this occasion, a slight decline from the latter amount, the amount for the 30th June last being £38,564,000,†

* See note (*) on page 15.

† This amount is exclusive of £2,320,655 Government and other Public Accounts in the Bank of Ireland.

or £194,000 under that for the corresponding date last year, which was the highest amount of which there is record.

TABLE I.—Showing Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks; compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.*

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1877, 30th June, .	32,746,000	—	69,000
1878, "	31,745,000	—	1,001,000
1879, "	30,191,000	—	1,554,000
1880, "	29,350,000	—	841,000
1881, "	28,289,000	—	1,061,000
1882, "	30,667,000	2,378,000	—
1883, "	31,725,000	1,058,000	—
1884, "	30,072,000	—	1,653,000
1885, "	29,240,000	—	832,000
1886, "	29,223,000	—	17,000
1887, "	29,339,000	116,000	—
1888, "	30,310,000	971,000	—
1889, "	31,205,000	895,000	—
1890, "	33,061,000	1,856,000	—
1891, "	33,700,000	639,000	—
1892, "	34,565,000	865,000	—
1893, "	34,637,000	72,000	—
1894, "	35,430,000	793,000	—
1895, "	37,491,000	2,061,000	—
1896, "	38,758,000	1,267,000	—
1897, "	38,564,000	—	194,000

* The names and the dates of foundation of the Banks, the combined statistics of which are included in Tables I. and I. (A) are as follows :—

Name.	Estab-lished.	Name.	Estab-lished.
Bank of Ireland,	1783.	National Bank,	1835.
Northern Banking Company,	1824.	Ulster Bank,	1836.
Hibernian Bank,	1825.	Royal Bank of Ireland, .	1836.
Provincial Bank of Ireland,	1825.	Munster & Leinster Bank,	1885.
Belfast Banking Company, .	1837.		

TABLE I. (A), made out by half years, shows the fluctuations which have taken place half yearly during the past ten years. The amount of deposits and Cash Balances on the 30th June last was £574,000 under that for December, 1896, and was also somewhat lower than the amount for June, 1896, and that for December, 1895, but it was higher than the amount at the close of any previous half-year in the period covered by the Table, and much over the average. It will be observed that in each of the five years 1893-7 the amount for June was under that for the preceding December.

TABLE I. (A)—Showing amount of Deposits and Cash Balances in Joint Stock Banks, at the undermentioned dates, compiled from Returns furnished by the several Joint Stock Banks in Ireland.

DATE	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, 30th June, .	29,339,000	—	833,000
„ 31st December,	29,771,000	432,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	30,310,000	539,000	—
„ 31st December,	30,979,000	669,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	31,205,000	226,000	—
„ 31st December,	32,968,000	1,763,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	33,061,000	93,000	—
„ 31st December,	33,825,000	264,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	33,700,000	375,000	—
„ 31st December,	34,532,000	832,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	34,565,000	33,000	—
„ 31st December,	35,375,000	810,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	34,637,000	—	738,000
„ 31st December,	35,852,000	1,215,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	35,430,000	—	432,000
„ 31st December,	37,607,000	2,177,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	37,491,000	—	116,000
„ 31st December,	39,008,000	1,517,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	38,758,000	—	250,000
„ 31st December,	39,238,000	480,000	—
1897, 30th June, .	38,564,000	—	674,000

2. Savings Banks.

The balances of deposits in Savings Banks consist of two groups—those in the Post Office Savings Banks, which are set out in Table II. and Table II. (A), and those in Trustee Savings Banks, shown in Table III. and Table III. (A).

At the end of June of this year, the estimated amount in the Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland stood at £6,443,000, as compared with £5,919,000, for the corresponding period of 1896, showing an increase of £524,000, following an increase of £582,000 in the twelve months ending with June, 1896.

TABLE II.—Showing Estimated Balances, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1877, 30th June,	1,211,000	145,000	—
1878, "	1,296,000	85,000	—
1879, "	1,374,000	78,000	—
1880, "	1,481,000	107,000	—
1881, "	1,645,000	164,000	—
1882, "	1,832,000	187,000	—
1883, "	2,003,000	170,000	—
1884, "	2,150,000	148,000	—
1885, "	2,325,000	175,000	—
1886, "	2,592,000	267,000	—
1887, "	2,802,000	210,000	—
1888, "	3,128,000	326,000	—
1889, "	3,372,000	244,000	—
1890, "	3,585,000	213,000	—
1891, "	3,878,000	293,000	—
1892, "	4,069,000	191,000	—
1893, "	4,155,000	86,000	—
1894, "	4,687,000	532,000	—
1895, "	5,337,000	650,000	—
1896, "	5,919,000	582,000	—
1897, "	6,443,000	524,000	—

Table II. (A) shows by half years, for the past ten years, the estimated balances in the Post Office Savings Banks. It will be observed that the estimated balance (£6,443,000) on the 30th June last shows an increase of £290,000 as compared with the estimated amount (£6,153,000) at the close of the year 1896. This

increase is less than that for the first half of any of the three years 1894-6, but is far higher than the increase in the first six months of any year prior to 1894.

TABLE II. (A)—Showing Estimated Balance, at the undermentioned dates, in Post Office Savings Banks in Ireland; compiled from Returns furnished by the Controller, Post Office Savings Bank Department.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, 30th June, . . .	2,802,000	99,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	2,932,000	130,000	—
1888, 30th June, . . .	3,128,000	190,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,339,000	111,000	—
1889, 30th June, . . .	3,372,000	133,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,442,000	90,000	—
1890, 30th June, . . .	3,585,000	123,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,723,000	138,000	—
1891, 30th June, . . .	3,878,000	155,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	3,966,000	88,000	—
1892, 30th June, . . .	4,069,000	103,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	4,204,000	135,000	—
1893, 30th June, . . .	4,155,000	—	49,000
„ 31st December, . .	4,343,000	188,000	—
1894, 30th June, . . .	4,687,000	344,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	4,977,000	290,000	—
1895, 30th June, . . .	5,337,000	360,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	5,003,000	266,000	—
1896, 30th June, . . .	5,919,000	316,000	—
„ 31st December, . .	6,153,000	234,000	—
1897, 30th June, . . .	6,443,000	290,000	—

Table III. shows the amount of deposits on the 30th June, 1877-97, in Trustee Savings Banks, from which it appears that there was an increase of £83,000 in June 1897, as compared with the corresponding period of 1896

This increase brings the amount in these Banks up to £2,211,000, which is higher than the balance in June of any year since 1877, and is £355,000 above the amount (£1,856,000) for June, 1893, which was the lowest half-yearly balance in any of the twenty-one years covered by the Table.

TABLE III.—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE	Amount	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1877, 30th June,	2,225,000	117,000	—
1878, „	2,208,000	—	17,000
1879, „	2,116,000	—	92,000
1880, „	2,063,000	—	53,000
1881, „	1,980,000	—	83,000
1882, „	2,038,000	58,000	—
1883, „	2,064,000	26,000	—
1884, „	2,072,000	8,000	—
1885, „	2,022,000	—	50,000
1886, „	1,994,000	—	28,000
1887, „	2,030,000	36,000	—
1888, „	2,012,000	—	18,000
1889, „	2,028,000	16,000	—
1890, „	2,035,000	7,000	—
1891, „	1,972,000	—	63,000
1892, „	1,958,000	—	14,000
1893, „	1,856,000	—	102,000
1894, „	1,940,000	84,000	—
1895, „	2,034,000	94,000	—
1896, „	2,128,000	94,000	—
1897, „	2,211,000	83,000	—

Table III. (A) gives information by half-years for the Trustee Savings Banks, and shows that there was an increase of £45,000 in June, 1897, as compared with December, 1896, the balance for which period was £38,000 over that for June, 1896. It will be observed that in each of the last eight half-yearly periods there was an increase as compared with the balance for the half-year immediately preceding.

TABLE III. (A)—Showing the Balances due to Trustees of Savings Banks in Ireland by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Comptroller-General, National Debt Office, London.

DATE.	Amount.	Increased.	Decreased.
	£	£	£
1887, 30th June, .	2,030,000	23,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,043,000	13,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	2,012,000	—	31,000
„ 31st December,	2,029,000	17,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	2,028,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December,	2,042,000	14,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	2,035,000	—	7,000
„ 31st December,	1,973,000	—	62,000
1891, 30th June, .	1,972,000	—	1,000
„ 31st December,	1,966,000	—	6,000
1892, 30th June, .	1,958,000	—	8,000
„ 31st December,	1,967,000	9,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	1,856,000	—	111,000
„ 31st December,	1,876,000	20,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	1,940,000	64,000	—
„ 31st December,	1,982,000	42,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	2,034,000	52,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,075,000	41,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	2,128,000	53,000	—
„ 31st December,	2,166,000	38,000	—
1897, 30th June, .	2,211,000	45,000	—

In order to show in a combined form the progress of the accumulation of small savings in Banks in Ireland, Tables IV. and IV. (A) have been constructed. Table IV. shows that the balance in the Savings Banks in Ireland in June last amounted to £8,654,000, or £607,000 in excess

of the balance in June, 1896. This increase is less than that for the twelve months ending with June in any of the three years 1894-6, but is about double the highest annual increase in any other of the years covered by the Table.

TABLE IV.—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. and III.

DATE.	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1877, 30th June,	3,436,000	262,000	—
1878, "	3,504,000	68,000	—
1879, "	3,490,000	—	14,000
1880, "	3,544,000	54,000	—
1881, "	3,625,000	81,000	—
1882, "	3,870,000	245,000	—
1883, "	4,066,000	196,000	—
1884, "	4,222,000	156,000	—
1885, "	4,347,000	125,000	—
1886, "	4,586,000	239,000	—
1887, "	4,832,000	246,000	—
1888, "	5,140,000	308,000	—
1889, "	5,400,000	260,000	—
1890, "	5,620,000	220,000	—
1891, "	5,850,000	230,000	—
1892, "	6,027,000	177,000	—
1893, "	6,011,000	—	16,000
1894, "	6,637,000	616,000	—
1895, "	7,371,000	744,000	—
1896, "	8,047,000	676,000	—
1897, "	8,654,000	607,000	—

Table IV. (A) gives the amount of small savings, by half years, for the past ten years. It shows that in the six months ended the 30th June last there was an increase of £335,000 as compared with the amount in Savings Banks at the close of the year 1896, and that this increase followed an increase of £272,000 during the half-year ended the 31st December last, and an increase of £369,000 in the first half of the year 1896.

[TABLE IV. (A.)

TABLE IV. (A)—Showing the Totals of the Balances in Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks, given separately in Tables II. (A) and III. (A).

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, 30th June, .	4,832,000	122,000	—
„ 31st December,	4,975,000	143,000	—
1888, 30th June, .	5,140,000	165,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,268,000	128,000	—
1889, 30th June, .	5,400,000	132,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,504,000	104,000	—
1890, 30th June, .	5,620,000	116,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,696,000	76,000	—
1891, 30th June, .	5,850,000	154,000	—
„ 31st December,	5,932,000	82,000	—
1892, 30th June, .	6,027,000	95,000	—
„ 31st December,	6,171,000	144,000	—
1893, 30th June, .	6,011,000	—	160,000
„ 31st December,	6,219,000	208,000	—
1894, 30th June, .	6,627,000	408,000	—
„ 31st December,	6,959,000	332,000	—
1895, 30th June, .	7,371,000	412,000	—
„ 31st December,	7,678,000	307,000	—
1896, 30th June, .	8,047,000	369,000	—
„ 31st December,	8,319,000	272,000	—
1897, 30th June, .	8,654,000	335,000	—

3. Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock.*

From Table V. it is seen that the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland was, in June, 1897, £24,216,000, compared with £24,776,000 in June, 1896, being a decrease of £560,000, following a decrease of £1,048,000 at that date as compared with the amount in June, 1895. The amount for June in this year is the lowest amount for June in any of the twenty one years covered by the Table.

TABLE V.—Showing the Amount of the Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock* held in Ireland at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1877, 30th June,	92,613,000	-	811,000
1878, "	81,809,000	-	804,000
1879, "	88,037,000	1,228,000	-
1880, "	88,118,000	75,000	-
1881, "	83,439,000	-	674,000
1882, "	81,772,000	-	637,000
1883, "	81,582,000	-	210,000
1884, "	80,839,000	-	678,000
1885, "	80,900,000	41,000	-
1886, "	80,414,000	-	416,000
1887, "	80,779,000	293,000	-
1888, "	28,856,000	-	1,923,000
1889, "	28,219,000†	-	687,000†
1890, "	27,517,000‡	-	702,000‡
1891, "	26,609,000	-	908,000
1892, "	28,042,000	-	557,000
1893, "	28,289,000	-	759,000
1894, "	25,375,000	99,000	-
1895, "	25,824,000	449,000	-
1896, "	24,776,000	-	1,048,000
1897, "	24,216,000	-	560,000

The amount of each of the several descriptions of Stock included in the total amount given above for

* Guaranteed Land Stock was created in 1892.

† See note (*) on page 16.

‡ See note (†) on page 16.

June, 1897, is shown, in round numbers, in the following statement:—

2½ per cent. Consols (1908),	£10,597,000
2½ " Stock (1906),	815,000
2½ " (1905),	75,000
Local Loans, 3 per cent.,	691,000
India 3½ per cent. Stock,	3,550,000
" 3 " "	1,250,000
Guaranteed Land Stock, .	2,812,000
	<hr/> £24,216,000

Table V. (A), made up by half-years, shows that there has been a decrease of £270,000 in June, 1897, as compared with the close of the year 1896, following a decrease of £290,000 in the six months July–December, 1896. The amount (£24,216,000) for 30th June last is the lowest amount for the close of any of the twenty-one half-yearly periods included in the Table.

TABLE V. (A)—Showing the Amounts of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock held in Ireland at the under-mentioned dates; compiled from Returns furnished by the Governor of the Bank of Ireland.

DATE.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, 30th June, . . .	20,779,000	629,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	20,839,000	—	940,000
1888, 30th June, . . .	22,856,000	—	943,000
" 31st December, . . .	22,000,000*	—	187,000*
1889, 30th June, . . .	23,219,000	—	450,000
" 31st December, . . .	27,828,000†	—	821,000†
1890, 30th June, . . .	27,517,000	—	381,000
" 31st December, . . .	26,610,000	—	907,000
1891, 30th June, . . .	26,800,000	—	1,000
" 31st December, . . .	25,784,000	—	825,000
1892, 30th June, . . .	26,042,000	258,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	25,198,000	—	844,000
1893, 30th June, . . .	25,283,000	85,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	24,500,000	—	774,000
1894, 30th June, . . .	25,875,000	806,000	—
" 31st December, . . .	26,000,000	625,000	—
1895, 30th June, . . .	25,824,000	—	176,000
" 31st December, . . .	25,406,000	—	418,000
1896, 30th June, . . .	24,776,000	—	630,000
" 31st December, . . .	24,486,000	—	290,000
1897, 30th June, . . .	24,216,000	—	270,000

* India 4 per cent. Stock ceased to bear interest on the 1st October, 1888, and was paid off.
† Reduced 3 per cent. Stock and 3 per cent. Consols ceased to bear interest on the 4th July, 1892.

4. *Bank Note Circulation.*

Dealing with the Bank Note circulation in a manner similar to that adopted with regard to the question of deposits and cash balances, it will be seen by Table VI. that there has been a decrease of £60,000 in the circulation as compared with the year 1896, the value having fallen from £5,918,000 in June, 1896, to £5,858,000 in the corresponding period of this year. The amount for June, 1896, was £330,000 under that for June, 1895.

TABLE VI.—Showing the average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland in June of the years 1887-97; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIODS	Amount.	Yearly Increase.	Yearly Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, June, .	5,681,000	—	45,000
1888, " .	5,758,000	77,000	—
1889, " .	6,515,000	757,000	—
1890, " .	6,634,000	119,000	—
1891, " .	6,165,000	—	469,000
1892, " .	5,965,000	—	200,000
1893, " .	6,068,000	123,000	—
1894, " .	6,007,000	—	81,000
1895, " .	6,248,000	241,000	—
1896, " .	5,918,000	—	330,000
1897, " .	5,858,000	—	60,000

The following Statement shows, by half years, the amount of Bank Note circulation in Ireland. It will be observed that in each year of the period covered by the Table, the amount for June has been under that for the preceding December. The amount for June, this year is £554,000 under the amount for December, 1896.

* There are Six Banks in Ireland authorized to issue Notes, the statistics of which are included in this table. The total authorized issue of Notes for these Banks is £6,354,494.

TABLE VI. (A).—Showing the Average Bank Note Circulation of the Six Banks of Issue in Ireland, at the undermentioned dates; compiled from Accounts published by the Registrar of Bank Returns, pursuant to the Act 8 & 9 Vic., cap. 37.*

PERIODS.	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
1887, June, .	5,681,000	—	678,000
„ December, .	5,964,000	283,000	—
1888, June, .	5,758,000	—	206,000
„ December, .	6,709,000	951,000	—
1889, June, .	6,615,000	—	194,000
„ December, .	7,090,000	375,000	—
1890, June, .	6,634,000	—	456,000
„ December, .	7,098,000	464,000	—
1891, June, .	6,165,000	—	933,000
„ December, .	6,643,000	478,000	—
1892, June, .	5,965,000	—	678,000
„ December, .	6,287,000	322,000	—
1893, June, .	6,088,000	—	190,000
„ December, .	6,536,000	448,000	—
1894, June, .	6,007,000	—	529,000
„ December, .	6,501,000	494,000	—
1895, June, .	6,248,000	—	253,000
„ December, .	6,459,000	211,000	—
1896, June, .	5,918,000	—	541,000
„ December, .	6,412,000	494,000	—
1897, June, .	5,658,000	—	554,000

* See note, p. 17.

The results of the analysis of the foregoing tables are :—

- 1st. That in June, 1897, as compared with the corresponding period in 1896, there was a decrease of £194,000 in the Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint Stock Banks.
- 2nd. That there was a decrease of £674,000 in Deposits and Cash Balances in the Irish Joint Stock Banks in June, 1897, as compared with December, 1896, at which date the amount was the highest yet recorded.
- 3rd. That there was an increase of £607,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in Ireland in June, 1897, as compared with June, 1896.

- 4th. That there was an increase of £335,000 in the Deposits in Savings Banks in June, 1897, as compared with December, 1896.
- 5th. That in June, 1897, as compared with the same period of 1896, there was a decrease of £560,000 in the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock, on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, and that this decrease follows a decrease of £1,048,000 in June of last year, as compared with June, 1895.
- 6th. That in June, 1897, there was a decrease of £270,000 in the amount of Government Funds, India Stocks, and Guaranteed Land Stock, on which dividends are payable at the Bank of Ireland, as compared with the amount in December, 1896.
- 7th. That in June, 1897, there was a decrease of £60,000 in the amount of Bank Note circulation, as compared with the corresponding period of 1896.
- 8th. That there was a diminution of Bank Note circulation to the amount of £554,000 in June, 1897, as compared with December of the previous year.

5. *Railway Statistics.*

Table VII. gives the receipts of Irish Railways, week by week, for the first half of the year 1897, compared with those for 1896.

A review of the weekly traffic returns shows that in seven of the twenty-six weeks the receipts fell below the amounts for the corresponding weeks of the year 1896, and in all the other weeks the receipts exceeded those in the corresponding weeks of that year, the net result being that the total receipts for the twenty-six weeks are

in excess of those for the first half of any previous year, and show an increase of £12,083 as compared with the first six months of last year, the receipts for which period were £24,699 above those for the first half of the year 1895.

Table VIII. gives some of the principal statistics for Irish Railways during the first half of each of the ten years 1888-97, for comparison of the receipts in the earlier years of the decade with those shown in Table VII. for 1896-97.

TABLE VIII.—Railway Traffic Statistics, Ireland, for the first Twenty-six Weeks of each of the Years 1888-97.

(Compiled from the Weekly Returns furnished by the various Companies.)

Years.	Length of Lines open.	RECEIPTS FOR FIRST 26 WEEKS.			
		Total.	Increase or Decrease as compared with corresponding period in preceding year.		Average Receipts per Mile.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
	Miles.	£	£	£	£
1888	2,672	1,328,027	—	11,507	497
1889	2,672	1,398,908	70,881	—	524
1890	2,667	1,436,636	37,728	—	539
1891	2,678	1,510,647	74,011	—	564
1892	2,688	1,454,678	—	55,969	541
1893	2,741	1,510,646	55,967	—	551
1894	2,735	1,554,019	43,374	—	568
1895	2,856	1,585,282	31,263	—	555
1896	2,975	1,609,981	24,699	—	541
1897	2,980	1,622,064	12,083	—	544

From information kindly furnished by the Board of Trade, it appears that the Authorized Capital of Irish Railways on 31st December, 1896, was £43,509,809; of which £30,393,283 was by Shares and Stock, and £13,116,526 by Loans and Debenture Stock.

The paid-up Stock and Share Capital amounted to £28,013,037, consisting of £16,446,519 Ordinary, £3,243,571 Guaranteed, and £8,322,947 Preferential.

The Capital raised by Loans and Debenture Stock was £11,702,835, viz., £723,564 Loans, and £10,979,271

Debenture Stock; making a total of paid up and borrowed Capital amounting to £39,715,872—which is the working capital of the Irish Railway system.

6. *Shipping Returns.*

It appears from the following Table, IX., that the yearly average tonnage of vessels in foreign trade, which were entered in the Ports of Ireland during the ten years 1886-95 was 940,955; the highest was 1,071,630 in 1894, and the lowest, 771,574 in 1886; in 1896 the tonnage entered was 1,083,069,* being 60,533 over the tonnage for 1895, and 142,114, or 15·1 per cent. above the average for the ten years 1886-95. The average tonnage of vessels in the coasting trade, entered in the Ports of Ireland during the decade 1886-95, was 5,360,319; the tonnage entered in 1896, was 5,683,644, being 37,934 under that for the year 1895, but 323,325, or 5·7 per cent. more than the yearly average for the ten years 1886-95.

The average tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade* cleared† during the ten years 1886-95 was 366,879; the tonnage cleared† in 1896 was 454,393, being 87,514, or 23·9 per cent., over the average, and 19,186 over the tonnage for 1895, which was the highest for any of the ten years, 1886-95. The average tonnage of vessels in the coasting trade cleared during the ten years 1886-95 was 4,053,560; in 1896 the tonnage was 4,345,077, being 291,517, or 7·2 per cent. more than the average for the decade 1886-95.

A Table (X.) showing, for each of the Ports in Ireland, the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year 1896, is given on page 23.

* Some of the vessels only partially discharged or loaded their cargoes.
See Table X.

† See note (*) on page 23.

TABLE XL.—Showing for each of the Years 1888-89, the Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared in the Ports of Ireland; and the Averages for the Ten Years 1880-89.

Years.	ENTRIES.						CLEARANCES.					
	Foreign Trade (with Glasgow and its Tributaries).			Coasting Trade (with Glasgow only).			Foreign Trade (with Glasgow and its Tributaries).			Coasting Trade (with Glasgow only).		
	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
1888.	271,075	—	291,407	2,144,780	—	29,475	207,246	26,247	—	2,224,480	25,260	—
1887.	261,216	29,540	—	2,200,170	25,004	—	201,770	26,771	—	2,210,209	—	25,000
1886.	261,077	—	26,889	2,220,000	—	28,674	271,237	—	25,260	2,170,279	—	26,750
1885.	261,000	26,400	—	2,120,100	40,007	—	277,001	—	24,904	2,150,400	—	26,750
1884.	2,100,707	25,400	—	2,107,000	75,000	—	260,000	—	26,750	2,007,100	171,750	—
1883.	261,075	—	26,889	2,000,000	200,000	—	200,000	—	26,260	2,000,000	171,000	—
1882.	2,000,000	26,007	—	2,000,000	26,000	—	200,770	26,007	—	2,000,000	26,000	—
1881.	261,075	—	26,104	2,000,000	—	200,000	200,770	—	25,000	2,000,000	26,000	—
1880.	2,000,000	26,000	—	2,000,000	200,000	—	200,000	26,000	—	2,000,000	26,000	—
1889.	2,000,000	—	26,000	2,000,000	200,000	—	200,000	26,000	—	2,000,000	—	26,750
Average, 1880-89.	261,075	—	—	2,000,000	—	—	200,000	—	—	2,000,000	—	—
1889.	2,000,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1880-89.	—	2,000,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1880-89.	—	200,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1880-89.	—	2,000,000	Decrease compared with Average, 1880-89.	—

* Vessels, in foreign trade, leaving the Ports of Ireland, in which vessels loaded cargo have been taken on board for any other Port in the United Kingdom, are not cleared.

TABLE X.—Showing the Number and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared, in the Ports in Ireland, together with the Number and Tonnage of such Vessels that only partially Loaded or Discharged their Cargoes during the Year ended 31st December, 1885

PORT.	NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN THE SEVERAL PORTS IN IRELAND for the year ended 31st December, 1885.								NUMBERS AND TONNAGE OF VESSELS THAT only partially Loaded or Discharged their Cargoes.			
	ENTERED.				CLEARED.				Foreign Ports. (Foreign Trade only).		Foreign Ports. (Foreign Trade only).	
	Foreign Trade (with Cargoes and in Ballast).		Coasting Trade (with Cargoes only).		Foreign Trade (with Cargoes and in Ballast).		Coasting Trade (with Cargoes only).		No.	Tonn.	No.	Tonn.
Belfast,	45	28,128	154	1,054,000	126	88,400	523	1,058,000	80	122,000	10	8,700
Dock,	68	107,779	1,080	840,507	48	38,957	1,401	47,500	47	52,000	—	—
Baltimore,	20	4,801	375	30,000	0	1,000	915	15,000	—	—	—	—
Dublin,	48	102,978	705	810,507	0	1,000	500	5,000	47	52,000	—	—
Drogheda,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galway,	18	15,000	100	10,000	10	10,000	100	10,000	10	10,000	—	—
Larne,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Londonderry,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Coblenz,	4	1,000	100	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Kerry,	10	1,000	1,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Greenock,	10	1,000	1,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Shannon,	10	1,000	1,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Waterford,	10	1,000	1,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Wexford,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Wick,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Total,	147	1,000,000	1,000	1,000,000	100	100,000	1,000	1,000,000	100	100,000	10	10,000

In conclusion, I have to return my thanks to the Authorities of the various Joint Stock Banks of Ireland, and of the Post Office Savings Bank Department; the Comptroller-General of the National Debt Office; the Governor of the Bank of Ireland; the Chairmen and Directors of the several Railway Companies; the Board of Trade; and the Board of Customs, for the valuable information which they so promptly afforded in connexion with the compilation of these Statistics for your Excellency.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's faithful servant,

THOMAS W. GRINSHAW,

Registrar-General.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

CHARLEMONT HOUSE,

Dublin, 31st July, 1897.

BANKING AND RAILWAY STATISTICS, IRELAND (JUNE, 1897).

TABLE VII.—COMPARATIVE RETURN OF WEEKLY RAILWAY RECEIPTS IN IRELAND FOR FIRST TWENTY-SIX WEEKS OF THE YEARS 1896-97.

No. of Week in 1897.	Date.	Name of Week ending (1897).	Receipts per Week.						1896-97.		Accounts returned by Post from stations or Tans.							
			Total.		Increase to 1897 as compared with 1896.		Decrease to 1897 as compared with 1896.				Total.		Increase to 1897 as compared with 1896.		Decrease to 1897 as compared with 1896.			
			1896.	1897.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.	Total.	Per Cent.
			£	£	£		£		£	£	£	£	£		£		£	
1*	January	5.	54,353	61,358	—	—	3,064	5.6	3,375	3,880	15.6	17.6	51,203	81,508	—	—	3,084	6.0
2*	"	12.	55,429	65,558	910	0.4	—	—	"	"	17.6	17.6	136,654	151,138	—	—	3,613	2.6
3	"	19.	55,558	65,546	988	0.7	—	—	"	"	17.6	18.0	180,113	187,584	—	—	3,428	1.9
4	"	26.	55,853	68,100	—	—	3,476	4.5	"	"	18.7	17.6	613,792	330,784	—	—	3,887	3.5
5	February	5.	55,848	55,518	470	0.9	—	—	"	"	17.6	18.0	588,841	584,356	—	—	4,527	1.7
6	"	12.	55,813	64,841	758	1.4	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.2	582,324	625,848	—	—	5,524	2.8
7	"	19.	56,243	64,394	—	—	325	0.6	"	"	18.3	18.1	375,886	375,886	—	—	4,087	1.1
8	"	26.	56,555	58,558	654	1.1	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.1	425,847	425,847	—	—	3,223	0.8
9	March	5.	57,318	58,853	1,445	2.5	—	—	"	"	18.1	18.7	695,182	688,186	—	—	3,956	0.4
10	"	12.	58,886	57,858	1,880	3.0	—	—	"	"	18.6	18.4	545,156	545,015	—	—	126	—
11	"	19.	57,719	58,658	1,658	2.8	—	—	"	"	18.4	18.0	685,957	686,445	1,562	0.2	—	—
12	"	26.	58,658	58,658	858	0.6	—	—	"	"	18.8	18.0	585,876	664,878	1,093	0.3	—	—
13	April	5.	58,658	68,700	1,301	2.1	—	—	"	"	17.5	18.4	725,364	128,654	3,400	0.8	—	—
14	"	12.	67,663	68,853	—	—	8,095	11.9	"	"	42.2	30.0	782,587	784,375	—	—	4,838	0.6
15	"	19.	68,658	65,881	—	—	3,987	4.6	"	"	22.4	18.2	686,448	551,839	—	—	3,608	0.5
16	"	26.	68,941	74,858	5,918	10.8	—	—	"	"	18.5	18.4	805,755	828,654	—	—	303	—
17	"	30.	68,640	71,037	4,478	6.5	—	—	"	"	23.4	22.8	685,758	847,581	6,128	0.4	—	—
18	May	7.	68,655	67,353	664	1.6	—	—	"	"	42.5	23.6	1,058,239	1,086,300	5,118	0.3	—	—
19	"	14.	68,680	68,681	—	—	889	0.6	"	"	49.5	25.7	1,328,379	1,130,581	4,828	0.4	—	—
20	"	21.	68,748	67,658	1,089	2.1	—	—	"	"	50.5	25.7	1,362,116	1,188,463	6,227	0.6	—	—
21	"	28.	70,177	67,147	—	—	3,030	4.3	"	"	23.6	18.2	1,385,201	1,280,880	5,367	0.3	—	—
22	June	4.	68,152	68,658	506	0.4	—	—	"	"	18.5	17.3	1,371,646	1,361,681	5,548	0.3	—	—
23	"	11.	68,558	78,561	4,583	7.0	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.8	1,395,748	1,408,162	8,398	0.6	—	—
24	"	18.	71,484	71,642	177	0.3	—	—	"	"	18.0	18.0	1,471,309	1,478,284	6,975	0.4	—	—
25	"	25.	68,758	70,558	727	1.0	—	—	"	"	17.6	17.7	1,545,887	1,580,258	5,503	0.4	—	—
26*	July	2.	68,974	71,758	2,784	4.0	—	—	"	"	23.6	18.3	1,585,581	1,435,654	15,085	0.6	—	—

* Owing to the closing of Accounts at the end of the October half-year, the accounts returned for the 1st, 12th, and 18th weeks, respectively, by some of the Railways, do not in all cases represent the receipts for seven days.

* Easter Week.

1 Wm. Webb.